

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated November 23, 2004. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 have been amended.

Claims 16-22 have been added.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-22 are presently pending and at issue.

Claims 1-3 and 12 stand rejected.

Claims 4-11 and 13-15 are objected to.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 1-3 and 12. Claims 1-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1-3 and 12 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

III. Status of the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for several informalities, such as the non-uniformity in thickness and the lack of definition of the lines, numbers, and letters. These errors have been corrected by Applicant as shown in the attached set of replacement drawings for Figs. 1-3. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests the above objections be withdrawn.

IV. Status of the Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for including legal phraseology, such as the term "means." The Abstract has been amended in view of the Examiner's comments (Appendix A1) to remove the term "means." Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the Specification for lack of subtitles. The Specification has been amended to include subtitles. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn. Furthermore, the Specification has been carefully reviewed and revised for clarity and to correct grammatical errors. No new matter has been added.

V. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-11 and 13-15 for being in improper form since a multiple dependent claim cannot depend on another multiple dependent claim. Claims 4-11 and 13-15 have been amended to remove their multiple dependencies. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 12 for not being in one-sentence form and for not ending with a period. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

VI. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

Regarding point (8), the Examiner states that claim 1 recites a broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation in the same claim. More specifically, the Examiner states that claim 1 recites an inflatable structure,

which is a broad recitation, and that the inflatable structure is "preferably elongated," which is a narrow recitation. Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite that the inflatable structure is elongated.

Regarding point (9), the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the front structure" in claim 1, line 7. Claim 1 has been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for this feature.

Regarding point (10), the Examiner states that claim 2 recites a broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation in the same claim. More specifically, the Examiner states that claim 2 recites lower parts, which is a broad recitation, and that the lower parts are "in particular, under the floatation line," which is a narrow recitation. Claim 2 has been amended to positively recite that the lower part is under the floatation line.

Regarding points (11) - (13), the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent bases for "the towable non-motorized nautical device" in claim 12, line 1, "the front structure" in claim 12, line 6, and "the frontal structure" in claim 12, lines 7 and 8. Claim 12 has been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the towable non-motorized nautical device and for the front structure. The element of "the frontal structure" has been removed from the claim.

Regarding point (14), the Examiner states that claim 12 recites a broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation in the same claim. More specifically, the Examiner states that claim 12 recites towing attachments, which is a broad recitation, and that the towing attachment are "in particular, under the floatation line fixed to the front structure," which is a narrow recitation. Claim 12 has been amended to positively recite that the towing attachment is under the floatation line.

Regarding point (15), the Examiner states that claims 1 and 12 are hybrid claims that are apparatus claims that include method steps. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to remove the method steps.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

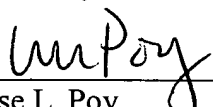
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: March 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 1-3 originally filed with this application with Figures 1-3 submitted herewith.